

# SLAYING OF SISTER REENACTED IN COURT

Marla Tucci, on Trial for Murder,  
Shows How Tragedy  
Took Place.

## RELATIVE HAD WEAPON

Girl in Self-Defense Forced  
Revolver to Point at Mrs.  
Conti's Head.

For almost three hours Marla Tucci, 20, on trial for the murder of her sister, Mrs. Angelina Conti, at 99 West Houston street on March 8, sat yesterday in the witness chair in Part V. General Sessions, before Judge Nott, and gave her version of the death of her sister. Self-defense was her plea.

Her voice was at times high pitched, sounding even childish in comparison with the deep voice of the elderly Italian interpreter. The climax in her ordeal was reached when, after telling her story, Alfred J. Talley, Assistant District Attorney, asked her to reenact the shooting before the jury.

In his right hand the interpreter held the revolver with which the girl shot her sister. Then Marla showed how she had threatened her sister after the latter had explained that they were sleeping together and that she had discovered a knife with which her sister had threatened her and that she had hidden it. When she returned to bed after hiding the knife, Marla said her sister showed the barrel of the revolver at her ribs and said: "You have hidden the knife, but I have something else to kill you with unless you do as I say." The struggle for the possession of the weapon ensued.

## Interpreter Acts Part.

Taking the interpreter's right wrist with her left hand, and her left wrist with her right, Marla repeated, as she remembered them, the motions through which the sisters went as they struggled on the bed in the dark room, the nine-year-old daughter of her sister asleep beside her. Gradually she forced the right hand of her sister down to her side. The right hand with the revolver passed above and behind her sister's head. The courtroom watched the pantomime as the gun went up and then stopped. The girl turned her head toward Mr. Talley and the spectators for a second. Tears were streaming down her cheeks, but she did not flinch. Her hand bent the wrist of the interpreter till the gun pointed at her head. She turned back to the interpreter, spoke rapidly in Italian, pulled her head to her left hand and then turned again, her eyes saying what her tongue could not, "Is there anything more I can do? Please, do I have to stand here any longer? Won't you let me sit down?"

## Surrenders Revolver.

After that she said she went upstairs and gave the revolver to Santos Mascagelli and told him she had a quarrel with her sister. On direct examination and throughout the cross-examination Marla insisted that she did not know that her sister had been hurt until the Wednesday following when she gave herself up to the Atlantic City police. The girl denied that she had told either Santos or Louis Mascagelli that she had shot her sister, as they had previously testified. She left the house, she said, because she wished to escape her sister's instant demand that she lead the sort of life she said her sister was living. The journey to Atlantic City was made because there was no room for her at her brother's house in Montclair.

## KILLS HUSBAND IN JOKE TO WAKEN HIM

Paterson Woman 'Clicking'  
Pistol Fires Fatal Shot.

Police of Paterson were ready to believe last night that the shooting of Henry Mensing, aged 32, by his seventeen-year-old wife in their home there early yesterday, was an accident. Three hours of continuous questioning failed to break down her story that Mensing's death was the outcome of a practical joke in which she planned to awaken him by the click of the revolver's hammer.

According to Mrs. Mensing, the revolver from which the shot was fired was brought to their home Sunday by her mother, Mrs. Mary Loges of Richfield. Mrs. Loges told the Mensings the revolver belonged to her husband and she was afraid to have it around the house.

Mensing failed to awaken when Mrs. Mensing called him at 6 o'clock in the morning. She got the revolver and held it, as she told the police, so the hammer would click on her husband's ear. When she pulled the trigger the old cartridge was discharged and the bullet penetrated Mensing's brain.

Mrs. Mensing was arraigned in the Recorder's Court on a technical charge of homicide, pleaded not guilty and was held for the Grand Jury.

## Fire Record

A. M.  
12:40-46 East 14th st.; Keith Amuse- ment Co.; unknown; Trifling loss.  
1:00-400 Ave. C; unknown; Trifling loss.  
10:20-13 8th av.; Angelo; Trifling loss.  
10:20-26 Forsyth st.; Sain; Trifling loss.  
11:25-15 and 17 West 73d st.; Dr. Nichols; Trifling loss.  
11:25-823 Beekman av.; Bronx; Ed Brannigan; Trifling loss.  
1:00-107 Ave. C; Joseph Barkin; Trifling loss.  
1:00-100 Cannon st.; Danika Chas- idem; Trifling loss.  
2:00-473 East 138th st.; Fannie Hanks; Trifling loss.  
4:00-108 St. North River; steam- ship; Matiny Steamship Line; Unknown loss.  
4:15-174 East 16th st.; Louis Gold- berg; Trifling loss.  
4:35-424 Hudson st.; Treasor-Bella; Trifling loss.  
4:40-342 West 20th st.; Edgar Lumber Co.; Trifling loss.  
5:00-905 Boston rd.; The Bronx; James Miller; Trifling loss.  
5:30-Quin's Head, Lower Bay, steamship Buio Maru; Japan- ese Line; Unknown loss.  
6:25-13 and 15 West 27th st.; H. & K. Contine Co.; Unknown loss.  
6:45-South av. and 20th st.; Trifling loss.  
6:45-9th av. line; unknown; Trifling loss.  
6:45-47 Riverside Drive; unknown; Trifling loss.

## SUMMER CAMPS.

PINE TREE CAMP FOR GIRLS; Pocomo Mrs. New York. Miss BLANCHETTE, 404 W. School Lane, Philadelphia, Pa.

## RESORTS.

THE SHOREHAM  
Spring Lake Beach, N. J. Open May 20.  
Bathing, Tennis, Golf, Riding and Driving.  
R. H. SPANENBERG, Proprietor.

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